(a) whether the Andhra Pradesh Government has requested the Central Government to examine the feasibility of setting up a passenger car plant in the port cities of Visakhapatnam or Kakinada; and

(b) if so, the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A request has been received from Andhra Pradesh Government for setting up of a passenger car plant by M/s. Maruti Udyog Limited (MUL) in the port cities of Visakhapatnam or Kakinada. Since MUL is a non-Government Company and a view on the location of the plant is therefore to be taken by MUL Board of Directors; the matter has been referred to MUL.

Supply of Rice and Wheat to the PDS Beneficiaries Below the Poverty Line at a Highly subsidised Price

1668. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: SHRI PARAS CHALIHA:

Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided that the "PDS beneficiaries below the poverty line" would be provided rice and wheat at 50 per cent of the issue price as reported in the 'Hindustan Times' dated the 21st November, 1996.

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating the definition of "beneficiaries below the poverty line" from income point of view;

(c) whether it is a fact that the above scheme would cost the Centre nearly Rs. 1,000 crore; and

(d) if so, by when the new scheme is likely to be implemented and whether State Governments are also required to make any countribution financially in respect of existing PDS in the States?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD ANI MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLI DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDR PRASAD YADAV): (a) to (d) The issu of streamlining the Public Distributio System with focus on the poor by provi ing rice and wheat at half the norm issue price to the population living belo the poverty line is under consideration the Government.

Trend of GEM and Jewellery Exports

1669. SHRI SUNDER SINGH BHANDARI: Will the Minister of COM MERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the export figure for gem an jewellery for the last three years;

(b) whether Government have e amined the reasons for the downwar trend in export of these items;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the hike in the intere rate on post-shipment credit and routin of import documents through banks hav been factors affective the growth; and

(e) if so, Government's strategy deal with them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF TH MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHR BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) Th export figures for gems and jewellery f the last three years are as follows;

(Value in US $ Millio

ITEM	1993-94	1994-95	1995-
DIAMONDS	3574.50	3937.00	4577.
GOLD JEWELLERY	308.60	421.20	480.
OTHERS	111.60	142.20	222.
TOTAL:	3994.70	4500.40	5275.

SOURCE : DGCI & S.

(b) and (c) There has been substanti growth in export in this sector over th last three years. However, recently som